

UPAP0008-100
PATENT

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 21, 24, 28 and 32 without prejudice and amend claims 3, 18, 22, 23, 33 and 34 as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2 (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an attenuated, non-functional vif protein, wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes an Arginine in place of Proline at position 162 of SEQ ID NO:1.

4. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 22 wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence which encodes an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

5. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 23 wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:27.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 3 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

8. (Original) A recombinant expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 3.

9. (Previously presented) The recombinant expression vector of claim 25 wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence which encodes an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

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10. (Original) A host cell comprising a recombinant expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 3.
11. (Previously presented) The host cell of claim 29 wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence which encodes an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.
- 12-17. (Cancelled)
18. (Currently amended) A plasmid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an isolated, attenuated, non-functional vif protein, wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes an Arginine in place of Proline at position 162 of SEQ ID NO:1.
19. (Previously presented) The plasmid of claim 33 wherein said protein comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.
20. (Previously presented) The plasmid of claim 34 wherein said nucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO:27.
21. (Cancelled)
22. (Currently amended) A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an attenuated, non-functional vif protein, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence which encodes an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:9, and SEQ ID NO:10.
23. (Currently amended) A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an attenuated, non-functional vif protein, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:32, and SEQ ID NO:33.

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24. (Canceled)
25. (Previously presented) A recombinant expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 22.
26. (Previously presented) The recombinant expression vector of claim 27 wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises SEQ ID NO:27.
27. (Previously presented) A recombinant expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 23.
28. (Canceled)
29. (Previously presented) A host cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 22.
30. (Previously presented) The host cell of claim 31 wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises SEQ ID NO:27.
31. (Previously presented) A host cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 23.
32. (Canceled)
33. (Currently amended) A plasmid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an isolated, attenuated, non-functional vif protein, wherein said protein comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:9, and SEQ ID NO:10.
34. (Currently amended) A plasmid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an isolated, attenuated, non-functional vif protein, wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:32, and SEQ ID NO:33.